

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An actuator driving method of driving an actuator having an electromagnetic coil electrically connected to a charge portion through a discharge switch, ~~characterized by~~ comprising: when electric power supplied to an operation portion for operating the discharge switch is cut, causing a discharge from the discharge portion to the electromagnetic coil by operating the discharge switch to drive the actuator.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An actuator driving method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein during a power failure phase, the operation portion is maintained to have a supply of an electric power by using a backup power source.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An actuator driving method according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ the actuator is driven to actuate a safety stop device for preventing a car of an elevator from falling.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An actuator driving circuit for discharging an electric power accumulated in a charge portion to an electromagnetic coil in order to drive an actuator having the electromagnetic coil, comprising:

a discharge switch including a power failure phase contact portion which is disconnected when an electric power supply is cut,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein an electric power accumulated in the charge portion is discharged to the electromagnetic coil by operating the power failure phase contact portion to drive the actuator.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An actuator driving circuit according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge switch further has a power feeding phase contact portion which is operated based on an input of an electrical signal and has an operating speed higher than that of the power failure phase contact portion, and a discharge is made from the charge portion to the electromagnetic coil based on an operation of one of the power failure phase contact portion and the power feeding phase contact portion.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An actuator driving circuit according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the actuator is driven to actuate a safety stop device for preventing a car of an elevator from falling.

Claim 7 (New): An actuator driving method according to claim 2, wherein the actuator is driven to actuate a safety stop device for preventing a car of an elevator from falling.